



the Inside Scoop...of OJJ

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Another month, another issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ*. I'm not sure where the time goes, but it seems like the year is passing by very quickly. It's almost Christmas and then we'll usher in a new year. The good news is that spring can't be too far in the future.

As ever, this issue is full of news and notes about things going on all over OJJ's world. In every part of the state you are reaching out to our kids, to the community and to one another. You are like a family and you do make a difference.

This month you will read about staff who just don't stop when it comes to doing whatever it takes to help our kids AND their families. You'll read about the way our leaders encourage their staff and praise their efforts. OJJ staff do not take each other for granted. I think that is not only unusual, but very heart-warming, to see how you encourage one another and take note of accomplishments. It is such a pleasure and a privilege to serve with you.

OJJ, you rock, and I'm delighted to rock on with you!

"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers



Respond to life

Respond with love to those who might otherwise annoy you, and suddenly the annoyance is gone. You'll both be better off.

Respond with patience to situations that might otherwise make you frustrated, and suddenly the frustration is gone. In its place will be energy for positive achievement.

Respond with understanding to things that might otherwise anger you, and the anger will dissolve. Instead of destructive rage, you'll see creative possibilities.

Respond with determination to events that might otherwise cause you dismay. You'll find yourself powerfully motivated to move positively forward.

Respond with enthusiasm to tasks you might otherwise find tedious. You'll find a way to create new and lasting value.

Respond to life as if each moment is a grand experience, filled with positive and unique possibilities. And that's just how it will be.

— Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...



PPS Simon Sarpy, Natchitoches Regional Office

PPS Simon Sarpy has always worked with kids, even when he was in the military. When he moved back to his hometown of Natchitoches from Hawaii, he needed a job and the Natchitoches OJJ office needed a Probation and Parole Officer. A perfect match. "There was a job opening, and I had the background," Simon said. "I'd always had a house full of kids. I'd rather be in a room full of kids than adults." Twelve years later, Simon is still serving OJJ kids in the Natchitoches office and still enjoys his work.

Interestingly, because he grew up in a military family, and because of his own military service, Simon has lived in many places, and could have settled anywhere, but he chose to come home when it was time to put down roots.

"PPS Simon Sarpy has always known what he wanted to do in life," said **RM Randall Hill**. "He wanted to serve his country, work with horses and help children and the community. So far, he is keeping on track with his life's dreams. He has served 17 years in the military, loves team penning in local and national competitions and is now working at Natchitoches OJJ helping children and the community in every possible way through the many programs that are available. Simon serves the Natchitoches Office as a Probation and Parole Supervisor, firearms instructor, armorer, safety coordinator, and transport coordinator."

The Natchitoches native is the son of a Navy father, and his family lived in Maine, Florida and Charleston, South Carolina when he was small. Simon recalls that in Maine, school

was not closed when it snowed. "When I was 8 or 9, we put on our coats to play in the snow at recess," he said.

But when he was about ten, the family returned to live in Natchitoches, where he graduated from Natchitoches Central High School. Right after graduation, he enlisted in the Navy, and two weeks later found himself in Orlando, Florida for boot camp.

His first assignment took him to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where he served shore duty. Re-enlisting, he served as a torpedoman's mate aboard the guided missile frigate USS Rueben James (sounds familiar, fans of *The Hunt for Red October*?) in the Pacific Ocean, out of Pearl Harbor. During this time, Simon married and had a son. He recalls that back in the 1980s, there was no email and sometimes his ship would go off on months' long sea duty with no notice. The only contact with family was through letters or collect phone calls from ports of call. He received sole custody of his son, Keith, when he divorced, and realized that he could no longer spend months at sea. "Back then in the 90s, it was almost unheard-of for a father to get custody of a child. But I did and I became a single father."

"I missed the change of the seasons in Hawaii," he said. "And, there are not too many civilian jobs for a torpedoman's mate, so I took my last tour of duty in Seattle."

Leaving active duty (but remaining in the Navy Reserves), Simon returned to Hawaii to raise his son, whose mother was Hawaiian. "Her family members are wonderful people and they were very loving and close to Keith and me then, and we remain close to them," Simon said. However, when Keith was 10, he wanted to move "home" to Natchitoches. "We liked the countryside, and the people, and my family is here," Simon said. So they moved home and Simon applied for the job in Natchitoches, but there was one small "hitch." Because Simon was still in the Navy Reserves, he was called up to active duty due

to the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Keith remained in Natchitoches with family while Simon deployed. Keith, now 22, works offshore, out of Venice in lower Plaquemines Parish. Simon re-married, and adopted his wife Frances' son, Ian. Frances is a schoolteacher in Natchitoches.

Simon has enrolled at Northwestern State University, where he takes classes as time permits. He looks forward to completing his general studies degree in the near future.

"I am trying to keep our kids out of that adult system. That is what I do."

"Anyone who knows me knows that I am realistic," Simon said. "I tell my officers to focus on the percentage of the youth in their caseloads where you can make a difference. Most of them, you will never see again after they are released from supervision. If we could save everybody, we would not have an adult correctional system. I am trying to keep our kids out of that adult system. That is what I do."

"A lot of people don't see a face when they think about our kids," he went on. "To some people they are just a name and a number, and a charge. But truly, most of our kids are not as bad as they may seem. You do not know what is going on in their family. I am often dealing with the kids of people that I went to school with. I tell them that I am not judging them – I do not judge anyone. I do not know what I would do if I were in their shoes. I tell families that we are going to deal with this issue and move on. But you never turn your back on the kids or the families."

"This work is always enjoyable, and it's almost always what you make of it," he added.

"Sometimes we get new officers who come here thinking things would be like it is on

television,” he said. “They think they’ll be kicking doors down. Sometimes we go to a house, or a group home, and people will ask, ‘where are your guns?’ I will explain that we are coming here to help and to explain what the options are. I can’t think of one time that I know of where an officer had to fire a weapon. If you know your kids, and you know the situation, the biggest asset you have is your mouth. I can talk myself out of any situation, thanks to my military experience. It helps that I have met and worked with people from so many other countries.”

“If you are not taking all the training that is available, you are not learning anything new.”

His training opportunities have often gravitated toward working with children. Even when he was still in Hawaii, he was often called in to an adolescent psych unit when working as a security officer. “You can’t ever really know enough,” he said. “That goes back to the military also. With big changes in technology, you have to keep up. With no training, you are being left behind. If you are not taking all the training that is available, you are not learning anything new. Besides, training is often where you meet people from other areas.”

Because OJJ offices are spread out all over the state, it’s difficult to really know most of our colleagues, Simon noted. “I must get dozens of emails every day and I’ve never seen the faces of the OJJ staff who sends them. So I really look at the pictures in *The Inside Scoop of OJJ* to get to know the faces.”

Simon laughs when he says “If you come to work with the wrong attitude, you are going to make everyone miserable. Please do me a favor and call in sick if you just can’t handle things – everyone has things going on once in a while, and there are some days when you just need to stay home. Call it ‘Save Simon’s Peace of Mind Day.’ ” But he praises his team of four PPOs and two transport officers,

saying, “they are a great group, kind of young, kind of seasoned, and kind of energetic.”

“Every kid likes structure, they really do not mind when they are given structure,” Simon noted. “When you allow the kids to make the structure, that’s when things get out of hand. Society is based on structure. When there is no structure, you’ve got chaos. Another lesson from the military.”

“There’s a time and a place to be a friend, but you’ve got to establish the parent role first or you’re going to lose the game every time,” he went on. “You can always ease up a little AFTER you establish that parental role. We see some parents who are doing everything they can. Often we see in one-parent families, the kid also wants the parent who is not there.”

Simon said that he had horses when he was growing up, and there are always kids around horses. When they moved home to Natchitoches, his son Keith got into riding. They live in rural Cane River country near Melrose Plantation, made famous as the home of local artist Clementine Hunter. Simon plays a little golf, and he finds keeping up with his aunt’s cattle and riding fence to be very relaxing.

But his passion is team penning. “That’s my relaxation,” he said. “Everyone needs some downtime and that is mine. I compete nationally, often in Texas. My adopted son Ian often comes along.” Simon has two Quarter Horses that he uses in competition. He describes team penning as an exercise in which three riders have 60 seconds to cut three specific head of cattle from a herd of 30, leaving the other 27 cattle, and get the three into a pen. The horses used in team penning are faster than regular cutting horses, he said, they are a combination of reining horses that “sit and spin” and cutting horses that isolate identified cattle from the herd. “I find the horses to be very calming, and it’s always peaceful when I’m in the barn,” he said.



Above, Simon astride Leo, his 7 year old Quarter Horse. Below, son Ian on BJ, Simon and Leo, and Simon's niece Kayla Metoyer on Sassy.



When pressed, Simon admitted to taking fifth place in the recent East Texas Team Penning Association competition.

When he's not working, Simon said he is team penning. And when he is not team penning, he's at work. "But I'm always at work whenever a call comes in," he said. "You have to take the calls, you have to answer at any time – that's another legacy of military training. But I have a good time at work, and I enjoy what I do," Simon said. "I seldom take sick time. I really enjoy my job, even though it can be frustrating at times. The bottom line, though, is that it's all about the kids. That never changes. The kids never change. This job will always be about the kids." Talk about meeting the mission!

"When I get off work, I like to have family and friends sit with me on the front porch," Simon said. "That's what it's all about."

Agency News

CQIS Policy Updates

Policies approved in October:

- A.2.9 Senior Executive Service 10/22/12
- A.2.56 Central Office Dress Code 10/22/12
- A.3.7 Procurement of Supplies and Equipment 10/22/12
- D.10.4 Community Supervision Classification System 10/01/12

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to members of the OJJ family who have recently lost family members. Please keep these staff members in your thoughts and prayers.

Central Office **Program Coordinator Roslyn Foster** lost her younger brother, Pastor Willie Robinson, Jr., to cancer.

New Orleans Regional Office: **PPO Austin Johnson** recently lost his grandfather, Austin Louis Johnson, Sr. **PPO Nakia Harris** recently lost her mother, Glenda Gibson.

Going the Extra Mile and Doing Our Best for Our Youth...

The Pistol

By PPO3 Steve Neef
Lafayette Regional Office

I offer this story of one of my juvenile clients as a simple reminder that our work is primarily a positive, *people*-oriented position and that we all have the opportunity and privilege at times to make a real difference in the lives of our youth and their families.

A 15-year old client in my caseload, whom we'll call "**Pistol**," is currently at Jetson Center for Youth. The family has been in distress for quite a while for many reasons. And so for a long time now they've needed

some type of hope that things can get better for them.

Well, upon leaving the JCY facility after my recent regular visit with the juvenile, I stumbled into an interesting discussion with the Jetson Recreational Trainer who informed me of the impressive natural athletic ability of my client.



Action at the OJJ Secure Facility Basketball Tournament.

I learned that Pistol was a starting guard on the competitive JCY basketball team which recently defeated both the SCY and BCCY teams in the annual tournament between the secure facilities. Curiously, the young man has never played competitive basketball at school or even through the city neighborhood leagues. The juvenile told me that all he has ever played was “street ball.” And never once has he mentioned to me that he was any good at the game. Yet the freshman stand-out was being described by a knowledgeable and experienced sports coach and trainer as having the potential to eventually play on par with some of the best high school basketball players in the state if he developed his skills and knowledge of the game.

So, I contacted the basketball coach of the high school that Pistol will attend upon his release to the community. I simply wanted to know if my



client could maybe just try out for the team when he came back home, which I figured might brighten the youth's and his family's hopes just a little bit. Making the basketball team could provide something very positive and productive for his life. For instance, this could be a real incentive for him to take school seriously, work to his academic potential, avoid negative peer associations and anti-social activities, and begin planning for a promising future, in more ways than one. Not to mention that it would make his mother and family very proud of him.

Well, not only was the head coach affirming of the youth being able to try out for the team, but he was so impressed with the description of Pistol's talent and potential that he asked if he could come to JCY soon to sort of “scout” out the young man as a future prospect for his top notch 5-A basketball squad!

Eager to observe his potentially promising recruit, the coach accompanied me to JCY for my next monthly visit to the facility. And so, while there, we were able to witness the youth in action as he displayed his impressive shooting ability on the basketball court. Then one of my co-workers,



Lafayette OJJ Transport Officer **Chris St. Julien**, a former All-State high school basketball player who went on to play in Junior College, Division-1 NCAA, the NBA Development League, and Euro-League ball, heard about Pistol during one of our conversations. Well, Chris offered to try to get the youngster into some advanced basketball camps and AAU competition before next year's season begins to help him refine some of his natural talent, develop his skills, and gain more knowledge of the intricacies of the game when he gets home.

Needless to say, Pistol's mother is simply thrilled about the exciting and encouraging developments in her dear son's life. And his siblings and other family members are sharing in the delight.

Pistol is now buckling down in school and re-taking his TABE to improve his educational performance in order to advance to his correct grade, so that upon his release he can try out for the Junior Varsity basketball team next year.

Of course, this was seen by the JCY authorities as an opportunity to encourage the other youth to take their rehabilitation seriously and begin looking to improve their own lives and plans for their future. For some it might not be sports, but it may be developing their desire and talent for music or art. Others may be inclined towards becoming a welder, mechanic, teacher, coach, social worker, or minister. Regardless of their particular vocational calling, the things that really count in life such as faith, family, and service to the community, can be enhanced when hope is restored and practical steps are taken towards that end. Indeed a youth's personal goals can begin to be re-directed towards a more mature, unselfish, responsible, productive, and fulfilling lifestyle as a result of proper intervention.

The JCY athletic trainer, the high school head basketball coach, and the OJJ Transport Officer, all indicated that they are not just interested in discovering and developing good, outstanding athletes. Rather, they are most interested in helping to better the lives of the youth whom God has placed in their paths for a season and for a reason. Isn't that what it's all about?

PPO3 Steve Neef has been employed with OJJ as a Probation and Parole Officer at the Lafayette Regional Office for 23 years. He holds a Master's degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University New Orleans. His previous employment included the Office of Family Services, the Refugee Resettlement Program, and the Come Lord Jesus Program in the Diocese of Lafayette.

A Message to our Educators Hits Home for Us All

Director of Education Kim Mims shares the message below, part of Swanson's Southside Alternative School **Principal Will Lee's** newsletter to his faculty and staff.

Panther Prowl



Thank you

During classroom visits this morning, I observed students, teachers, paras, and JJS staff all engaged in learning and teaching.

In several classes, JJS staff members were actively involved with helping students with their work. The halls were quiet and the entire atmosphere in each school building was one that was excellent for learning and teaching.

I want to thank you all for the work you are doing in the school. Thanks to the JJS staff members who are actively participating in helping students learn. Thanks to the teachers and paras.

I truly believe we have one of the best education staff in the state of Louisiana. You all do wonders with students while working under adverse conditions.

Our students' success will directly impact our success as educators. We must push every day to foster and preserve an atmosphere of learning. We must not have a corrections mindset. No matter that we are surrounded by barbed wire, high fences and locked gates.

We are Southside Alternative High School. We are a SCHOOL and you are the best TEACHERS in the state of Louisiana.

**Thank you,
Principal Will Lee**

Alexandria Regional Office

Welcome

We want to welcome **PPO2 Todd Roszell**, who transferred from Natchitoches OJJ.

PPS John Baker was a presenter for the Judges' First Friday meeting held at the Alexandria City Police Complex. John presented OJJ's mission and programs to stakeholders with the Rapides Parish Juvenile Court System. John also attended the Coordinated System of Care Meeting at the State Office Building in Alexandria.

PPO2 Frank Parrino, along with parish and state representatives for Grant Parish, attended a check presentation for Camp Grant Walker. AT&T presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 to help with a new education building that will be utilized by some of OJJ's clients.

OJJ Anniversaries

Congratulations to our staff who recently celebrated employment anniversaries with OJJ.

PPS John Baker - 23 years
AC3 Cassandra Conston - 18 years
PPS Clay Dupuy - 12 years

PEN Meeting Held

Family Liaison Donna Bowie of Central Office conducted the Parent Empowerment Meeting (PEN) for Alexandria in October. **PPS John Baker**, **PPS Donna Desoto** and **PPS Clay Dupuy**, along with the parents of the youth that our office serves, attended the meeting.

PPO3 Amanda Barber conducted recertification for CPR and First Aid for the staff at Alexandria OJJ.

Staff have completed webinar training for JIDS (Juvenile Interstate Data System).

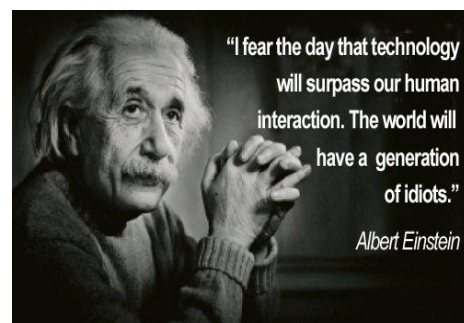
Supervisors Clay Dupuy, Donna Desoto, John Baker and Sharon Graham were treated to a breakfast prepared by staff in celebration of Boss' Day.

PPS Donna Desoto Active in Breast Cancer Awareness

PPS Donna Desoto was part of many activities involving **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**. Donna was interviewed by Community Focus and the Rapides Foundation and several commercials were aired of this interview for Breast Cancer Awareness. Donna participated in the Pink October Celebration in Avoyelles Parish, where she was a model in the fashion show and she was also the guest speaker for the American Cancer Society at a graduation ceremony for volunteers trained to be a "CHA," which stands for Community Health Advisor. Donna, who is a breast cancer survivor, states that her goal in participating in the activities involving breast cancer awareness was to promote early detection and to help everyone celebrate another birthday by having early detection of cancer.

Birthdays

We said happy birthday to two staff, **PPO3 Angelic Johnson** and **PPO3 Lori Mayeux**.



The day that Albert Einstein feared may have finally arrived. Stay tuned...

Baton Rouge Regional Office

The month of November was a pretty eventful one here at Baton Rouge OJJ. We said goodbye to **RM Michelle Thomas** and **PPO2 Yolonda Latimer**. Michelle transferred to the Lafayette Office to take over as Regional Manager and Yolonda is now working with DHH as OJJ's Liaison to CSoC. We wish both of them the best of luck on their new ventures.

We also welcomed **Jacqueline Page** back to Baton Rouge OJJ as our Acting Regional Manager. Welcome back RM Page!

Congratulations

Employees of the Month



Baton Rouge OJJ recognized **Administrative Coordinator Irma Gonzales** as **October**

Employee of the Month for her hard work and dedication to the office. Irma is always busy

behind the scenes making the office run like a well-oiled machine. Thanks for all that you do, Irma, we appreciate you.



PPO2 Yolonda Latimer was recognized by her coworkers as the **Employee of the Month** for November because of her kind heart and giving nature. Yolonda is

always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Congratulations, PPO Latimer.

Baton Rouge OJJ staff celebrated Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink and denim on a day of their choice, for a \$5.00 donation to support the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer organization. Thanks to all who participated, in support of those who have been affected by cancer.

PPO2 Katina Broden participated in a quarterly regional Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) meeting in Bossier City. The meeting involved statewide coordinators and representatives from the five parishes in Louisiana that participate in JDAI to discuss progress, problems and ideas.

PPS Wendy Sarner attended training for the Why Try program, that offers a different approach to reaching our youth using music, activities and various other learning techniques to prompt them into making positive changes in their lives.



Baton Rouge OJJ closed out the month of November with giving. This year we gave out complete

Thanksgiving meals to families that otherwise may not have had one. The spirit of giving in the Baton Rouge office never runs short - thanks to all who helped to make the baskets a success.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday wishes went out to **PPO3 Patsy Adams** and **PPO3 Roy McBride**. We also sent a happy birthday shout-out to **PPS Cobie Chauvin**. We wish you all many, many more.

Bridge City Center for Youth

BCCY Holds 1st Annual Fall Fest

Bridge City Center for Youth hosted its first annual Fall Fest in October. The Fall Fest was a token of appreciation to the youth who embrace and model LAMOD daily.

The events began with the youth taking a stroll through our spooky haunted house. It was amazing to see the faces and the reactions of the youth and the staff. A special thanks to **JJS Karen DeGraffenreid** for her creative efforts that made the haunted house a great success.



Backdrop from the Haunted House

As the day continued the youth engaged in field events such as flag football, tire throw, and ball toss, just to name a few.

The Fall Fest would not have been complete without great food and music. To add to the fun, the youth were served hotdogs, hamburgers, nachos with cheese, popcorn, funnel cakes and freeze pops. It was evident that the youth enjoyed themselves by the smiles on their faces and their words of gratitude.

To culminate this great day, our staff engaged in an intense game of basketball with our youth. In the beginning of the game, the staff showed out and took the lead. The score was close until the last two minutes of the game, when the momentum shifted. The youth

began to pull away, and the game ended with the score of 45-53. Generously, the youth have offered the staff a chance to redeem themselves, so a rematch is TBA (LOL).



Staff vs. Youth basketball game

Special thanks to all employees from all departments who pitched in to make our first annual Fall Fest a huge success!

Did Someone Say...Challenge? (Healthy Competitiveness)

In the spirit of LAMOD, the housing units participated in a door decorating contest. The themes for the contest were Halloween and Breast Cancer Awareness. The doors were judged based on 10 factors: relevance to Theme, Creativity/Originality, Visual Appearance, Imagination, Complexity, Quality of Work, Artistic Merit, Design, Arrangement and a freebee, Participation.

The judges had a very hard time selecting the winners, because all of the doors were creative and appealing. After a *long* deliberation, the judges decided the winning dorms were: **First Place-Pride**, **Second Place-Liberty** and **Third Place- tied, Perseverance and Destiny**.

Congratulations to our winners. The **First Place** winner will receive a movie night, pizza and chicken, with use of the Pavilion. The **Second Place** winner will receive a pizza party and one-hour use of the Pavilion. The **Third Place** winners will receive cookies and punch, with one-hour use of the Pavilion. Winning doors are pictured below.



First Place - Pride



Second Place - Liberty



Third Place, tied - Perseverance



Third Place, tied - Destiny



BCCY students learned about the democratic process on the national, state and local level by concentrating on the recent election. The poster above was used in a series of Social Studies lessons taught by teachers **John Thompson** and **Troy Wilson** and Para-Educator **Bella Berry**. *Photo by DAS Karen Stubbs.*

Congratulations on a New Grandbaby!

Staff Development Specialist **Susan Taylor** shows off her new granddaughter, **Jordan Catherine Aime**, born November 5, weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces, and measuring 20½ inches, to parents **Joshua and Julie Dufreche Aime**, Susan's daughter and son-in-law. Susan says mother and baby are doing wonderfully, and **big brother Jackson** is a happy boy.





Having coffee with friends

Central Office

Congratulations

ACA Accreditation Manager Angela Arabie is OJJ's newest ACA Auditor.



To be considered for approval as an ACA auditor, applicants must complete the auditor orientation course and test with a passing score of 75% or higher, and submit a letter of recommendation from the Director/CEO of their agency. An individual is certified as an ACA auditor once their application is approved by the review board. ACA consultant auditors are experienced correctional professionals who are approved by the Director of Standards and Accreditation. The average auditor has worked in corrections for over 18 years, and has experience supervising and evaluating the type of programs being reviewed for accreditation. Auditors are also utilized for field consultation, re-audits and monitoring visits to accredited or certified programs.

Taken for an (Unexpected) Ride....

By Kelly D. Smith
Director of Health Services

We sometimes take for granted that we are in control of our workday schedules. Then, the unexpected happens! How about a state vehicle becoming disabled as you are driving from a very important meeting in Baton Rouge in the middle of the day, with a tight timeline to get to BCCY's Celebration of Change? You take for granted that the highway is clear and the car is gassed up and running. Well not so for me one particular day in November!

As I glided to the side of the road about 25 minutes outside of Baton Rouge headed east to New Orleans, I realized the car has

completely shut down. What do I do now? Well, after realizing that I am no longer in control, I gave in to the situation. I remained calm, assessed the vehicle, reached for the vehicle log, and started making phone calls.

I must say that I recalled some of the points, **Handling Emergencies**, from page 24 of the OJJ Leadership Manual, and life's experiences, got me through this one. It works!



I was rescued and made this grand entrance, (left and below) into BCCY's Celebration of Change in a TOW TRUCK. Talk about **MODELING THE WAY!**

P.S. Remember to pay attention to the mile markers and exit signs as you are driving down Louisiana's highways.



Kelly Smith was all smiles as she made her grand entrance in an enormous tow truck, with the dead state vehicle close behind.

Showers Held to Honor Staff



Central Office held a baby shower for CQIS **Program Coordinator Katie Kirkpatrick Justice**. Katie and her husband **Todd Justice** are expecting their son, **Jackson**, in December.



Karen Stubbs, DAS/Intergovernmental Relations, Communications and Training, was feted with a bridal shower in honor of her nuptials. She recently married **LSU Law Professor John Church** in a romantic ceremony in her hometown of Minden, followed by a wedding trip to Key West, Florida.

Thanks and Farewell



Southern University senior **Megan Daniels**, seated, served as an intern for **Family Liaison Donna Bowie**, rear, who recently recognized Megan's service to OJJ. Megan will graduate this semester with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Megan's contributions will be appreciated in the future, as Donna noted that Megan assisted in planning and facilitating volunteer coordinators training and began working on the changes to the coordinators' manual that will be implemented next year.

CO Enjoys Unique Thanksgiving Lunch

Thanks to the Morale Committee and **Director of Food Services Zelma Jones** for a unique and very enjoyable Thanksgiving luncheon. Zelma, pictured second from left, provided two types of pasta with a choice of marinara or alfredo sauce, and several meats (chicken, shrimp or sausage), along with a medley of fresh vegetables sautéed to order. She rounded out the menu with Caesar salad and strawberry shortcake with all the trimmings – fresh and frozen strawberries with natural nectar, and cream cheese whipped cream topping.



Above, we lined up to observe Zelma sauté our choice of pasta, meat and vegetables, to order, topped with her light and delicious sauces. Below, the salad and dessert table.



Members of the Morale Committee are **Adm. Asst. Marvel Adams, Deputy ICJ Adm. Suzie Durrett, Dr. Livers' Asst. Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Adm. Asst. NyKisha Franklin, Program Coordinator Katie Kirkpatrick Justice** and **Adm. Asst. Shaeki Shanklin**.

Up Close and Personal with Wily Coyote

Note: the news has been full of sightings of coyotes in the Baton Rouge metro area. They are seldom seen and often heard. Here is a firsthand account of a recent experience.

**By Curtis Badon, PE
Mechanical Engineer**

Most weekends, I run my FJ Cruiser in 4-wheel drive to keep the system lubricated properly. But one recent Sunday night, I realized that I had been focusing on work and had not run the truck in 4-wheel drive that weekend. So, just before bedtime, I decided to take the truck out and try to find a large field in the middle of the neighborhood near my home (in the middle of Baton Rouge) that I'd seen on Google Maps. I approached the field and shined my headlights across it.



Then I saw a "dog" in the middle of the field, facing me and looking right back at me. I thought, "That looks like a coyote", and the coyote started to run. So I chased it with the Cruiser through the grass. First it ran to my left and I followed it with my headlights. Then it ran to the right. This was the perfect opportunity to shift into 4-wheel drive. I accelerated and chased the coyote all the way across the field at about 25-30 miles per hour. He finally ran out of the field, across the road into a neighbor's backyard and into the wooded area behind the house. That was fun! Maybe next time I can get someone to go with me and take pictures.



**Having dinner
out with your
friends.**



Hammond Regional Office

Superstar

PPO1 Adam Nyquist was the **October Superstar**. He was recognized by **PPO2 Jennifer Sirchia** for assisting her with transporting a youth to court.

Welcome Aboard

Hammond OJJ welcomed two new PPOs to our team. **Tyrone McClendon** and **Justin Schleis** joined us in October.

Field Trip Opens Our Eyes

By PPO2 Jonathan Varnado

Slidell City Drug Court **Coordinator Will Rachal**, **Treatment Provider Andrea Garrett**, and I recently visited the Cavanaugh Treatment Center in Bossier City and New Beginnings in Opelousas. We toured both centers, and also got to see Cavanaugh's new facility in Shreveport. The team was impressed with the quality of care by the staff and we look forward to working with both treatment centers. Also, the Slidell City Drug Court team along with other drug court teams across the state were invited to attend an IMPACT (Intensive Motivational Program of Alternative Correctional Treatment) presentation at the Elayn Hunt Correctional Facility, pictured left, and were able to tour the Louisiana



Correctional Institute for Women. It was interesting to see how both facilities are working towards rehabilitation and reintegration with innovative programs such as IMPACT, and from a Juvenile Justice perspective, it was an important reminder of our role in reducing recidivism and instilling positive values in our clients while they are under our supervision.

Staff Attended Bridge City's Fun Day

RM Sue Larisey, PPO1 Robert Penn, PPO3 Mark Davis, pictured, and PPO2 Jamie Oertel attended the BCCY Fun Day activity to show support for the facility.



What's Going On...

PPO1 Robert Penn reported that a youth on his caseload obtained his GED this month.

PPO3 Kasey Wall reports that youth **M.J.** received an early release from probation after being supervised for seven months. She is currently in the 12th grade at Hammond High Magnet School and doing extremely well. **Kasey** and **PPO Danielle August** are continuing to mentor this youth through her senior class project. Her topic is "How the role of a PPO affects the future behavior of a juvenile offender."

PPO2 Jamie Oertel tells us that her youth **G.M.** was released from custody to attend college at McNeese University.

We're Making a Difference

By **SSCIV Lori Wagner**

I have been working with **Youth M.M.** since December 21, 2011. She quit school because excessive absences caused her to receive failing grades; however, when she attended school, her grades were excellent. Her **PPO Amy Johnson** and I felt she could certainly pass the GED, so we convinced her to go to the Youth Challenge Program in August 2012. We advocated for her, to get her the needed supplies to enable her to attend YCP in Minden.

I am happy to report that her performance is excellent. Her behavior is all positive and she has excelled as a leader in her group. She has passed two of the Pre GED tests which will enable her to take the full GED before she graduates in December. She is also taking an on-line class at Bossier Parish Community College while she is at YCP. She has now full termed on her probation and is still in the program. Her goal is to finish, get her GED, and to go on to pursue higher education. Kudos to M.M. for all of her hard work.

I also have a youth, **C.D.**, who recently turned 15. I have been working with her and her family since January 2012. Despite some setbacks and detention time, she has now returned to a regular school setting from an alternative school. She is making better grades and her parents have changed their expectations of her, which requires more effort on her part. She will full term successfully from probation in December. Way to go, C.D., you're awesome!

I have been working with another youth, **R.J.**, since July 2012. He needed some inpatient treatment and was referred. At first he was very reluctant about the program, however he put forth great effort to gain the knowledge needed to complete the program and return to the community. He then needed to complete relapse prevention and outpatient treatment, which he did with some prompting.

R.J. enrolled in the E-20/20 program through the local school and will be able to earn a high school diploma. He has plans to further his education through one of the local technical schools or colleges. He successfully full termed in November. He deserves great recognition, as he has continued his course of successful completion, despite many obstacles.

Teambuilding Day Held

By SSCIV Lori Wagner

Hammond OJJ recently held a team building/staff day at North Oaks Park. The day began with a game of kickball and it wasn't long before the trash talk began! Hammond staff are highly competitive!

After the kickball game, the cooking began. Local "**Chef**" PPS **Johnny Prentice** cooked hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage and chicken breast for the entire staff. Of course, everyone pitched in, bringing soda, chips, dips, cookies and brownies.

After some much needed "rest" digesting the awesome food, other teambuilding exercises began.

Some of the events included a pumpkin decorating contest, garbage race, telephone game and trash can game. All events required team participation and cooperation.

Hammond OJJ has hired several new staff members in the last year. This was an excellent opportunity for the staff to mix and get to know each other better.

Teams were chosen and we made sure the teams were not from the same unit. **SSC Lori Wagner** (me!) chose games that exhibited the need for everyone to work together as a team.

A great time of laughter, eating, games, and teamwork was had by all who attended.

Kudos to all of the staff for making it a great day to relax and enjoy one another's company outside of a more structured setting.

Thanks to our fearless leader, **RM Sue Larisey**, for making it happen.



The Hammond OJJ Team, from left, back row: Tyrone McClendon, Parker Boyd, Adam Nyquist, Sarah Gilberti, Dawnita Hodge, Robert Penn, Sue Larisey, Mark Benton, Johnny Prentice, Roy Wittorf. Middle row from left, Mark Davis, Christy Ford, Jamie Oertel, Carrie Austin. Kneeling from left, Denise Wall, Dana May, Courtney Pegues and Danielle August.



Four Pumpkins: pictured are Robert Penn, Dana May, Sarah Gilberti and Jamie Oertel.



Left, our "Chef" Johnny Prentice. Right, "Teambuilding - Mark Benton, Adam Nyquist and Robert Penn. Back to camera: Mark Davis. Left, Adam Nyquist and Mark Davis passing along the "secret."





Left, Danielle August and Mark Benton – keeping the secret going.

Right, Robert Penn and Johnny Prentice, making sure he just heard what he thought he heard.



Right, Dawnita Hodge and Danielle August – Dawnita reacts to the “secret.”

Left, RM Sue Larisey and Sarah Gilberti – Sarah passes the secret on Sue.



to



Above, the “Trash Race” - Courtney Pegues and Mark Davis; Danielle August and Sarah Gilberti; Johnny Prentice and Robert Penn.

Baby Shower Held

Hammond OJJ staff welcomed **PPO Julie Church** back from maternity leave. We held a

baby shower for her upon her return. She was pretty surprised, as you can tell!



Julie Church, surprised at her shower.

OJJ Son Participates in All Saints Day Program

By PPO3 Truett Glass

My son, Justin, recently participated in his second grade All Saints Day program. He chose to do his presentation on Saint Justin Martyr. Obviously his choice was by name recognition at first. But once he learned more about Saint Justin, he thought it was awesome to have the same name of a person who stood up and sacrificed for what he believed in. Charlotte and I are very proud of him!



Out on an intimate date.



Jetson Center for Youth

JCY Holds Volunteer Training

By Barbara Williams
Volunteer Services Coordinator

JCY and central office staff recently conducted an off-site training for volunteers. Instructors were **Volunteer Services Coordinator Barbara Williams, Program Coordinator Belinda Thomas, Assistant Director Fouad Harb, and Central Office Family Liaison Donna Bowie.** The training was held at St. Patrick Catholic Church Family Center in Baton Rouge. There were 28 volunteers present.

St. Patrick Catholic Church graciously invited other churches to dinner and the training. There were volunteers from St. Patrick Catholic Church, Church of Burning Fire, Berean Seventh Day Adventists, Prison Fellowship Ministries and Living Faith Christian Center. Subjects covered were the mission, vision, guiding principles and overview of the Office of Juvenile Justice, LAMOD, PREA, contraband, searches, dress code, the need for mentors, etc.

There was an abundance of delicious food - red beans, sausage and rice, corn bread fritters, green salad, dessert and drinks.

JCY and Central Office appreciated the opportunity to conduct the training in the community. The training was well received and appreciated.



Volunteers attended the training at St. Patrick Catholic Church.



Above left, Volunteer Services Coordinator Barbara Williams; above right, Assistant Director Fouad Harb. Below left, Family Liaison Donna Bowie, below right, Program Coordinator Belinda Thomas.



From The Southern University Ag Center Newsletter:

Elwood Works with Youth in Garden

Baton Rouge, LA - Every Tuesday and Thursday, the SU Ag Center holds the Jetson (JCCY) Garden Trade class at the JCCY facility in Baker, LA. On Tuesdays, an average of 17 incarcerated boys, ages 12-18, gather to hear a guest speaker from the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center emphasize the importance of knowing how to grow food, explaining the doors of opportunity that open up when individuals learn how to grow their own food. The speaker also describes the important role that African Americans play in the progression of modern agriculture, and shares life skills associated with gardening, proper communication, healthy eating, and family life. On Thursdays, **Extension Associate Stephanie Elwood, Project**

Director Christie Gremillion-Monroe and program participants spend time in the Jetson 800-square foot garden, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting and overall maintaining the health of the garden.

Recently, **Kasundra Cyrus**, specialist, family and consumer sciences, and **Monroe** received a USDA/NIFA grant to enhance the Ag Science class taught at Jetson Correctional Facility, and are implementing the program. Currently, the garden is blooming with mustard greens, turnips, collards, cabbage, radish, carrots and beets. The garden saves the JCCY cafeteria money and provides fresh, healthy, local produce to the incarcerated boys, as well as a sense of pride knowing that they grow the food themselves.

The youth that participate in the Garden Trade program receive a certificate of achievement through the Southern University Ag Center. This certificate serves as a supporting document when successful participants attend their court dates, and when released from JCCY to seek employment.

CCS Holds Wellness Fair for Staff and Youth

By **Chivon Gray, LPC**
CCS Wellness Chairperson

CCS held its first annual wellness fair and Pink Out Day at Jetson Center for Youth in October. We are thrilled to announce that it was a total success! The mission of the wellness fair was to provide health assessments and information regarding diseases that are often preventable with diet and exercise, such as diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

A pleasurable environment was created so that staff members could be rejuvenated, all while having their blood pressure and glucose levels checked. The youth were provided the opportunity to speak with medical professionals as well. Participants were even offered the chance to participate in the "Get

Fit Hula Hoop Challenge," which was won by our very own **Director Angela Sutton!**

All participants, staff and youth, chilled out at the Smoothie Break Station, which provided both smoothies and snowballs for their enjoyment.

The wellness fair also highlighted the importance of cancer awareness and literature was provided to staff members on this. The closing ceremony involved both staff and youth releasing pink balloons as the names of loved ones affected by breast cancer were read.

We would like to say thanks to all the individuals who helped to make this fair a success. We are looking forward to planning next year's event. *"Together We Can Achieve Stronger, Healthier Lives."*

Instructor Chosen Halloween Queen



Instructor Denise Clause was Halloween Queen 2012, chosen by the 1031 Consortium, a non-profit organization whose proceeds benefit the Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital, Big Buddy and the Greater Baton Rouge

Food Bank. The parade featured as Grand Marshal former governor **Edwin Edwards**, pictured right, with Denise. Pictured above left, Denise with **Dr. Todd Terminie, SSD Teacher** at Jetson, and his girlfriend **Annie**. Denise was a truly fitting queen for the organization, as her birthday is Oct. 31.



**Our Troops in Afghanistan –
All but Forgotten Stateside, but Still Keeping the Faith.
Here's a peek into their daily reality.**

Jetson **Adm. Asst. Ramona Garror** shares the experience of her brother, U.S. Marine **Sgt. Major Victor Singleton**, a 24 year veteran on his second tour of Afghanistan. "Most of his achievements have been awarded meritoriously," Ramona said. "He enlisted right out of high school and has been there since. My brother tells me 'Sister, be thankful because you would not want to live on a regular basis like this.'" Sgt. Major Singleton enjoys photography and took most of the photographs here (unless he is in them!).



*Tree sent by his
baby girl in
California.*



Ready to fly



Our flag, flying proudly.



The MV-22 Osprey - the U.S. Marine Corps uses it for troop transport, and moving supplies from ships and land bases for combat assault and assault support. The MV-22B Osprey is a tiltrotor aircraft that can operate either as a helicopter or a turboprop aircraft.



*Left, correspondence from supportive families.
Right, all is sand-colored.*



Above and below – Heartbreak Hotel and Gym.



Update: The Jetson Four

In August we reported about Jetson youth saving a litter of four tiny, abandoned kittens. All were adopted and are doing well. Two of the rescued babies sent us current photos we thought our readers might enjoy. The half-grown kittens are a joy to their families and we have our youth and **Instructor Denise Clause** to thank for their rescue.



Left, Savannah the Kitty, today, decked out for Christmas. Below, L.J. (Louis Jetson), barely eight inches long at six weeks.



Below, L.J. today is a huge, long-haired butterscotch-colored tabby with a long fluffy tail.



Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Welcome

The Lafayette Region welcomed our new Regional Manager, **Michelle Thomas**. We hope Michelle feels at home and among friends in Lafayette!

Congratulations

PPOs Seth Richards and **Jeffry Edwards**, graduated from the POST Academy of the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office. PPOs



Edwards and **Richard** represented OJJ very professionally during the academy class, as well as at graduation in October. Jeffry was awarded the physical training award.

PPOs Seth Richards, left, and Jeffry Edwards.

Healthy Competition Has its Benefits

A friendly competition between units benefited needy families in the Lafayette area. The units of the Lafayette Region competed against each other to donate non-perishable food items for Food Net's Thanksgiving food drive, with the members of the winning unit receiving movie passes for local theaters. **PPS Chris Potier's** unit donated the most food, accounting for 128 pounds of the overall 326 pounds of food donated.



Kneeling: PPS Chris Potier; Standing from left, PPOs Jamie Moore, Brian Simpson, Jody Osmer, Kevin Broussard and Danielle Bias.

A day at the beach.



Veterans Honored

OJJ treated its resident veterans to breakfast in honor of Veterans Day. On November 9, the supervisors in the Lafayette Region prepared breakfast for the staff, with the four veterans as the guests of honor.



Lafayette OJJ's veterans, from left, PPOs Jeffrey Edwards, Monisha Fruge', Ben Guidry and transport Officer Dudley Corner.

Lafayette Hosts Successful P.E.N. Meeting

Parents were invited to a Parents Empowerment Network (P.E.N.) hosted by the Lafayette office. Thanks to **PPO Jamie Baronet** for hosting the Saturday event.

Parents received information about the role of OJJ's **Family Liaison, Donna Bowie**, expressed the importance of family engagement and provided ways to stay engaged. The agency's website was noted and parents learned how to check it and stay up to date on relevant policies.

Parents were also given a fact sheet to assist in empowering them to best advocate for their child. PPO Jamie Baronet was instrumental in educating and empowering parents who attended on the overall role of the Probation and Parole Officer. She noted the fact that PPO are not the disciplinarians – the parents are. She provided information on how to communicate with PPOs, the benefits of working with the officer and some of the services provided by officers.



Participants at the P.E.N. meeting at the Lafayette Regional Office. To the far right is Southern University Intern Megan Daniels, who attended to learn about and understand parent empowering and the role of the PPO.



PPO Jamie Baronet, left, visits with a parent and youth on her caseload.



Enjoying the sights

Lake Charles Regional Office

Congratulations

To Those Celebrating the Long Haul and Those Just Starting Out

Adm. Coordinator 3 Erline Pierce and **husband Gary** celebrated their **40th wedding anniversary** on November 18. We agree this is an **incredible** accomplishment. Marriage is difficult, but is also the foundation of society. The ability to remain committed to this sacrament and vow is a challenge but Mr. and Mrs. Pierce have been in it for the long haul.



November 18, 1972



The Pierce Family in November 2012, from left, Daughter Kristal Pierce, Grandson Christopher Soileau, "Bride" Erline Pierce, "Groom" Gary Pierce, and Daughter Stacie Pierce.



Congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Prudhomme**. On November 1 **PPO Alexis Heflin** and **Reggie Prudhomme** exchanged wedding vows in a private, romantic ceremony. They celebrated in Houston after the ceremony, and they plan a Christmas honeymoon in Italy.



Our sentiments to the bride and & groom:

The journey of marriage begins with "I do." Cherish the bond - it belongs only to the two of you. Start each day with gratitude and compassion.

Unconditional love will follow. Believe in each other and support each other's dreams. Always give more than you think the other needs. Say "I love you" and "thank you" everyday. Trust, respect and appreciate each other. Stand together, but let there be space in your togetherness. Know when to listen, to talk, to let your heart feel. Apologize and accept apologies. Work together. Play together. Pray together. Allow God to be the foundation of your marriage. Draw strength from each other, and two shall become one. The greatest happiness in life is to love and be loved.

Farewell

Best wishes and farewell to **PPO3 Garrick Chambers**. He resigned after four and a half years of service, for another career opportunity. He served as our NRA Firearms Instructor, and he was a great volunteer for all the emergency needs of BCCY and JCY. Garrick was a comic relief for our office and was liked by all. He met the needs of the Allen Parish professionals and the Allen Parish community. The kids were well served by this officer and his dedication to helping them. We will miss him greatly!

Thanks for Jobs Well Done

Thank you to **PPO Angie Stevens** and **PPO Fred Fontenot**, who have been volunteering and offering to assist in some of Garrick's former duties, during this time of transition.

Program Specialist Karli Pullard and **PPO3 Stefanie Krygowski** volunteered their weekend time to participate in the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in Sulphur. Their workout group, the "House of Oorah," formed the team.



Stefanie Krygowski and Karli Pullard

PPO Jeff Haley, **PPO Fred Fontenot** and **PPO Ronald Gilchrist**, along with Boys Village staff **Reggie Prudhomme** and **Paul Bray**, recently played a competitive basketball game against the residents to **MODEL THE**

WAY. The staff actually **WON** this time! The boys look forward to this interaction.

One of our officers was recognized for being gracious in the 36th JDC during an October court date. An 11-year old with extreme limitations of understanding of the court process entered the courtroom unaware of the actions about to occur. As court officials began discussing consequences and legalities, the young **FINS** youth began hyperventilating. It is reported that, during the proceedings, the PPO approached the youth, spoke softly to her, and was successful in calming her. This PPO did not have prior knowledge or a relationship with this youth.

This same officer was recognized by a coworker for being thoughtful, in that she checked on two probation officers who remained in the field beyond work hours due to late court. Her check-in was greatly appreciated. **Never miss an opportunity to do something nice for someone else.**

PPO Ronald Gilchrist received kudos from Methodist Children's Home (MCH) staff for being gracious, patient and kind. He represented OJJ well for the first-ever Magellan placement at MCH. It required a great deal of patience as the Magellan intake was slow, but he remained professional. Thank you for representing our office well!

PPO Rebecca Harmon recently completed all requirements to become Lake Charles OJJ's very own CPR/First-Aid Instructor with the American Heart Association. Rebecca also recently completed her first annual CPR/First Aid Training refresher. Congratulations, Rebecca. Thank you for volunteering to be our new CPR Instructor.

PPO Monet Newman was recognized for greatly assisting **PPO Garrick Chambers** with his new placement cases. Monet also assisted Garrick with his Due Process notification to the court. He has been very complimentary of the guidance she provided.

PPO Garrick Chambers also positively recognized **PPS Melissa Cross** and **PPO Stefanie Krygowski** in his monthly report for “going above and beyond” in assisting him to become more familiar with Calcasieu Court and opening of OJJS’s inherited cases.

PPO Rebecca Harmon also recognized **PPO Monet Newman** for assisting her with the Calcasieu Court Process, Permanency Hearings and proof-reading assistance. Rebecca gave Monet huge compliments and expressed gratitude for her assistance.

Kudos to all the volunteers for taking on the extra responsibilities that were recently redistributed. Thank-you to **our Training Coordinator** for agreeing to remain in her position to fulfill this important need for our office. And, thank-you to **PPO Angie Stevens**, who formerly served on the Annual Training Committee (ATC), but has agreed to be Co-Training Coordinator to share some of the responsibility of this extra duty.

Thanks to **PPO Monet Newman** who continues to present the Shoplifting Class in Beauregard Parish as the need arises. The last class was held in October during the Beauregard Fair Days, when kids were out of school. This class is always thoughtfully planned and scheduled to maximize the youths’ best interests.

PPO Rebecca Harmon and other Lake Charles OJJ representatives attended the recent Mental Health Conference.

PPS Melissa Cross attended the Office of Juvenile Justice's committee for the Detention Risk Screening Instrument (RSI).

One of our officers who frequently volunteers for extra assignments taught a juvenile delinquency course at the recent Adult P&P POST Academy. She also assisted our region and another region with annual weapon inspections, and she led a gun-cleaning refresher in the Lake Charles office. Further, this officer helped a family make

arrangements for a youth to take his GED upon his release from custody. Finally, this officer did a **fantastic** job teaching PPCT. She brought seriousness to the training and emphasized doing each move correctly.

Another one of our officers had a success story. **Joseph W.**, a young man in the Transitional Living Program, received a substantial grant to further his education and assist with education-related expenses.

PPO Rebecca Harmon assisted youth **Tre C.** in completing a job application.

PPO Monet Newman proudly shared that Transitional Living Program youth **Kyle M.** obtained a job at Target, after 6 months of looking. This is a huge success story!

Thank you to all the PPOs who recruited for the Youth Challenge Program and had increased enrollment.

Thank you to **PPO Alexis H. Prudhomme**, **PPO Fred Fontenot**, and any other Lake Charles staff who volunteered to attend the after-hours Thanksgiving celebration at Boys Village. We know your presence was appreciated by the boys.



PPS Melissa Cross was blessed by the opportunity to participate in Operation Christmas Child, and the Samaritan's Purse Organization, through her church. These boxes will be sent to children around the world who are in need, and the love of Christ will be shared with them as they, too, are blessed. “To give to others, and to love someone that we never met, is the closest thing we can do to be Christ-like. What a great opportunity!,” Melissa said. “And the giver is definitely just as blessed or more so by participating in this event! Every

shoe box offers an opportunity to share the Good News of the Savior with a hurting child." A weekly prayer guide is also provided to the giver so that the box is surrounded by prayers for the recipient and the people sharing the good news.... What an experience!



Congratulations to **PPO Angie Stevens**, who enjoyed a wonderful cruise vacation! The original cruise destinations were Jamaica, Cayman Islands and Cozumel, Mexico. Due to Hurricane Sandy, the ship captain changed

course to avoid the storm and the ports of call were switched to Key West, Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico. Despite the diversion, they had a wonderful time. The photo with the "senorita" was taken after debarking the Carnival Magic in Costa Maya. Angie is pictured far right.

Congratulations to **PPO Monet Newman** and her family, who purchased a new home and moved in November.



PPS Melissa Cross shares these photos of her two little boys, Jonathan, 2 years old, left, and Jackson, 4 years old. They are growing up so fast.



Monroe Regional Office

Monroe OJJ raised money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation in recognition of **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**. Our staff showed their support for this great cause by donating a total of \$115.00. **Good job!**

Numerous Training Sessions Held

October was a busy month for training at Monroe OJJ. **PPS Gail Wilson** conducted Service Coordination Curriculum Review.

Program Specialist Walteree Barnes, PPO3 Willie Hunter and **PPS Gail Wilson** taught the Motivational Interviewing Refresher.

LAMOD Refresher Training was presented by **PPO3 David McMillan**.

Mental Health Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice was conducted by **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes** and **PPS Gail Wilson**.

OJJ **Attorney Marston Fowler** instructed staff on Ethics Training for Public Servants. We would like to thank Marston for coming to Monroe OJJ from central office to present the training.

PPO2 Mark Miller is now a certified American Heart Association CPR/First Aid Core Instructor. Mark completed the AHA course at Swanson and then attended the Instructor training in Alexandria. Monroe OJJ is proud to have our own instructor.

POST Firearms Instructor **PPO3 Jennifer Bible** recently completed the annual POST Instructor Retrainer at the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office Range in West Monroe.

CASA of Northeast Louisiana recently hosted "Stand Up For An Abused Child" at the American Legion Hall in Forsythe Park in Monroe. The event was designed to bring awareness to the issue of abuse and neglect faced by children in northeast Louisiana. OJJ

was strongly represented at the event throughout the day. Those participating were **PPS Karl Wallace**, **PPO2 Jeremy Fox**, **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes**, **PPO3 Willie Hunter**, **PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom**, **PPO3 Jackie Kindrix**, **AC3 Kashka Flintroy**, and **PPS Gail Wilson**.



Left, PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom supporting CASA.

Right, Program Specialist Walteree Barnes and PPO3 Willie Hunter "Standing Up for Abused Children."



PPS Gail Wilson with ULM's Ace supporting CASA.

PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom attended a JIDS training session in Baton Rouge. Monroe OJJ staff participated in a webinar: Field Staff Training Session for Juvenile Interstate Data System (JIDS). Valerie is assisting Monroe OJJ staff in implementing the new ICJ data system, which went live in November.

Social Worker 5 Nelda Graham and **Social Worker 4 Joseph Devillier** presented Moving the Margins Training to Monroe OJJ staff.

Monroe OJJ field staff and supervisors participated in a webinar training to become familiar with Clinical Advisor. The state-wide training was presented by Magellan Behavioral Health.

Monroe Staff Attend Swanson's Celebration of Change

Swanson held its Celebration of Change on Oct. 30. **Director Vickie Shoecraft** hosted guests, local dignitaries, and OJJ staff for the event. SCY youth provided historical information and musical entertainment. The guest speaker was **Mr. Fred Dean**, a former Louisiana Tech and NFL Hall of Fame star. **Regional Director Carolyn Lewis** addressed the recent accomplishments of the Northern Region of OJJ and acknowledged recent retirees. Closing remarks were given by **Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers**. Lunch was served after the program.

Monroe OJJ **Regional Manager Patty Newman** served on the planning committee. **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes** and **PPS Gail Wilson** assisted with the guest list. Other Monroe OJJ staff members who attended and helped in various ways were **PPO3 Gary Hunter**, **PPO2 Reginald Hampton**, **PPO3 Jennifer Bible**, **PPO2 Greg Colvin** and **PPO2 Mark Miller**.



Having a conversation with your BFF.

Thanksgiving Celebrated in Style

Monroe OJJ celebrated Thanksgiving with a traditional dinner including turkey, ham, dressing and all the fixings. It was delicious. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we are all so grateful for our families, our friends, and our health. **We wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.**



Regional Director Carolyn Lewis joined Monroe OJJ in celebrating Thanksgiving.



PPS Karl Wallace "enjoyed" a different kind of Thanksgiving dinner. At the insistence of PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom, Karl attended a vegan Thanksgiving lunch sponsored by a local health food store. Let's just say he did not clean his plate. Karl is pictured enjoying his vegan Thanksgiving meal.



Left, PPO2 Jeremy Fox carved a patriotic pumpkin for Halloween. Right, PPS Karl Wallace supporting his favorite team, the San Francisco 49ers.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Congratulations



**October Employee
of the Month
PPO3 Chris Wyatt**

Bosses' Day Celebrated

Bosses Day was celebrated by Natchitoches OJJ during our monthly staff meeting. The staff presented the Regional Manager and Supervisors with cake, cookies and gifts in appreciation for all of their hard work.



RM Randall Hill, PPS Simon Sarpy and PPS Kristen McComic.

Welcome Aboard

We would like to welcome our new employee, **PPO1 Christopher Johnson**. He joined our team in October.



Community Involvement

PPS Simon Sarpy conducted a lecture on our juvenile justice system recently for the criminal justice class at Northwestern State University.



PPS Simon Sarpy presenting to...



...the NSU Criminal Justice class

Fall Fest 2012 Held at Ware Youth Center Group Home



Ware Youth Center kids



PPO2s Ieisha Beasley and Deanna Williams



PPO2s Heather Christophe and Brenda Sarpy with WYC staff Katy Procell and Sandy Tamez.



PPO2s Heather Christophe and Brenda Sarpy.

Happy Halloween! From Transport Officers Magen Smith and Rachel Martin



ACA Halloween Candy Giveaway

On October 31 **PPO Stanley Cook** assisted the Many Police Department in a city-wide distribution of candy to the children of Sabine Parish.



A family trick or treating



Many Chief of Police Roger Freeman and Natchitoches OJJ's PPO Stanley Cook.

OJJ Daughter Participates in Red Ribbon Week/Career Day



PPO2 Brenda Sarpy's daughter, Megan Jane Sarpy, attends East Natchitoches Elementary School. Megan participated in Career Day during **Red Ribbon Week**, celebrated in October. Red Ribbon Week is the largest drug prevention campaign in the nation. It is a way for people and communities to unite and take a stand against the use of illegal drugs.



A visit to the museum.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Congratulations



Employee of the Month

PPO Shelita Burnett was chosen Employee of the Month for the Metro Region. Aside from covering all of her required duties as a PPO, Shelita helped to

coordinate and presented multiple activities for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Shelita has also consistently volunteered to assist her co-workers with assignments over the past year and is always willing to give a helping hand around the office.

Welcome Aboard



The New Orleans OJJ family would like to welcome **PPO1 Shemica Randall** to the family. She successfully completed PPCT

Training with the Hammond OJJ office in November. Shemica is off to a great start and is looking forward to working with the youth and their families of Region One.

Bosses' Day Appreciation Lunch Held

We did it up right to celebrate Bosses' Day. **RM Kelly Clement**, along with the supervisors from New Orleans OJJ, **Justine Aguiar, Paulette Carter, Patrice Guy, Daphne Johnson, Lydia Johnson, Ralph Jones, Earnessa Monciffe** and **Nikita White**, were served a four course meal, provided by the New Orleans office staff. The

meal included an appetizer and salad, followed by a delicious meal and scrumptious dessert, all served on beautiful china. The staff at the New Orleans office served as waiters and waitresses. Their appreciation was expressed by rolling out the **"red carpet."** A good time was had by all!



The supervisors and regional manager pose for Bosses' Day.



PPS Ralph Jones' staff celebrated Bosses' Appreciation day all week long with gifts and generosity.

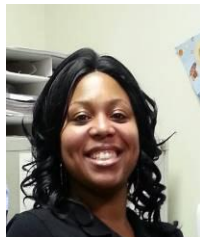
Breast Cancer Awareness Month Celebrated

OJJ-New Orleans acknowledged **Breast Cancer Awareness 2012** with a multitude of fundraisers, in support of finding a cure. The occasion was set in motion with pink ribbons and literature giveaways. The event calendar included Jeans Day, Team Jersey/T-Shirt Day, a bake sale, hot dog and nacho sales, Halloween costume/fun wear, and in thinking **pink**, the popular choice of drink was **pink lemonade**. All funds raised by OJJ-New Orleans, \$733.00, were donated to Louisiana Breast Cancer Task Force (LBCTF). This

organization awards grants to recipients such as hospitals and agencies. The grants are used for, but not limited to, research, mammograms and medical equipment. All of the money raised stays in Louisiana. LBCTF has awarded well over a million dollars for the benefit of Louisiana residents. The Breast Cancer Awareness committee included **PPS Lydia Johnson, PPO3 Evalina Lestrack, Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit and PPO3 Rosie Collins.** However, the entire New Orleans OJJ staff, pictured below, contributed and was instrumental in making this fundraiser a huge success.



Congratulations to Parent and Child!



PPO Kimberly Dickerson's daughter, Milani Oliney, is a student at the International School of Louisiana. Milani had a perfect quarter; she received all As on her report card.

Congratulations, Milani.

Celebrating, Love, Happiness and an Engagement



New Orleans OJJ would like to congratulate **PPO2 Daniel Mingea** on his recent engagement to **Casey Littlejohn.** It was an exciting night at the Hornets game for fans and his fiancé as he proposed on the court with Hugo as his

wingman (oops wing-hornet). Way to go Danny!

But there is more to this story.



Above, Danny and Casey, beaming. Below, the happy couple joined by...Hugo the Hornet.



Despite the garb, Casey is not a cheerleader for the hornets. She had never been to a game or the arena before. She made the skirt herself. The element of surprise prompted Danny to use this venue.

Shreveport Regional Office

Congratulations

Employees of the Month

PPO1 Sterling Newsom was selected September Employee of the Month.

The October Employee of the Month was **PPO3 Latonya Marshall.**

Staff Attend Swanson's Celebration

Several staff attended Swanson Center for Youth's annual Celebration of Change. Those who went to support Swanson included

RM Kristi Martin, Program Specialist Jan Crain, PPS Terri Harber and PPS Rick Ladner.

PPS Terri Harber attended a staffing at Swanson.

PPS Kim Carlisle and Program Specialist Jan Crain attended a FINS Summit for community leaders.

PPO3 Jennifer Hill and PPO3 Kristin McKee attended CPR training at the Heart Institute. Both were certified in CPR.

We celebrated several birthdays:

PPS Kim Carlisle, Program Specialist Jan Crain, PPO2 Jessica Flores and PPO3 John Whitlock.

Swanson Center for Youth

Pink Out Day

Swanson and CCS staff came **"Pinked-Out"** for Breast Cancer Awareness on two October Fridays, sponsored and coordinated by CCS.

One Friday there was a "Best Dressed" contest. Winner of the contest, JJS3 Debra McGee, took home a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card.



JJS3 Debra McGee, winner of the Pink Out Contest.

Also, staff took a **"Pink Lap"** in support of those who are and/or have battled breast cancer. Each participant enjoyed a "Pinked Out" cupcake and were given breast cancer

awareness pamphlets and additional information supplied by JJS3 Shakita Hays.

Special thanks to CCS HAS Kevin DeBruhl, **"Pinked Out"** Coordinator CCS Administrative Assistant LaShonda Reese, Administrative Assistant Brenda McCloud, and all the participants who made the day fun and a great success.



Staff participated in the Pink Out Lap.

P.E.N. Meeting Hosted

Director Vickie Shoecraft recently hosted the quarterly parent empowerment meeting at Swanson.

Staff who attended included Director Shoecraft, Deputy Director Nadira Ricks, Deputy Director Kim Rushing, Deputy Director Germaine Simon and Family Liaison Donna Bowie from central office.

Director Shoecraft advised parents of our emergency preparedness activities, and described our response to the recent Hurricane Isaac. A discussion of the "First Call Response" was explained to families.

She also apprised families of the exciting changes in the food service arena under the guidance of our **Director of Food Services Zelma Jones**.

Deputy Director Nadira Ricks provided parents with an update on treatment services. She told the families about the specialized programs currently offered at Swanson. DD Ricks elaborated on the incentive trips for all

units throughout the campus and the basketball competitions with other facilities.



Parents listen attentively at the P.E.N. meeting while SCY staff and Family Liaison Donna Bowie from central office provide empowering tips.

“It’s Your Ship”

Over the last few months, attendees of the Leadership and Senior Team meetings have been placed into groups and assigned chapters of the leadership books to read. On their assigned day, the groups present their chapters in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, a skit, etc., during weekly meetings. The last book was *It’s Your Ship* by Captain D. Michael Abroschhoff. **JJS4 Jamarsa Hill, Rev. Ricky James, JJS4 Roy Williams, JJS4 Michael Shaw and Deputy Director Nadira Ricks** did an outstanding job, decked out in personalized t-shirts and sailor hats. They also presented **Director Vickie Shoecraft** with her very own captain’s hat.



“USS Swanson” crew, JJS4 Jamarsa Hill, Rev. Ricky James, JJS4 Roy Williams, JJS4 Michael Shaw, Deputy Director Nadira Ricks, with Director Vickie Shoecraft in front.



The crew displays their “uniforms.”

Tallulah Regional Office

Staff Attend Swanson’s Celebration and Other Community Events

RM Ruth Stephens and PPS Johnnie Bowman attended the celebration “Falling for Change” held at Swanson in Monroe.

Officers also attended the open house held by The Center for Children and Families, in honor of everyone who works in the different programs that serve the youth in our area.

Holiday and Birthday Celebrations

Tallulah OJJ conducted its monthly staff meeting along with review of several policies. After the meeting, everyone enjoyed our Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone contributed something to the meal, which included all of the traditional Thanksgiving fixings.

We celebrated our only October birthday in a different way. Instead of the usual birthday cake, breakfast was served for honoree, **PPO Kim Green**. Everyone enjoyed eggs, biscuits and sausage, pictured below.





Photo by Tallulah OJJ AC3 Martha Hattaway. "I love sunsets," Martha said. "I took this photo while visiting C Bar J Ranch in Transylvania, LA, just north Tallulah. The ranch is owned by our PPO Janet Pierce and her son, Clay Pierce. Clay is 10 years old and took me on tour of the ranch that includes their herds of cattle and horses. As we were coming in, we all appreciated the beautiful view."



On November 1st, **PPO Robert Johnson** was treated to a special surprise for his birthday. He was greeted that morning with black R.I.P signs, black balloons, and black streamers in his office. Co-workers definitely surprised him upon his arrival that morning.

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations Employee of the Month

PPO3 Jeff Barrilleaux was selected **Employee of the Month**. He is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

Welcome Aboard

Thibodaux OJJ wished a warm welcome to our two new staff, **PPO1 Travelle Scott** and **Transport Officer Michael Russell**.

Thibodaux OJJ held its Fall/Halloween Gathering on Halloween Day. The day was full of treats, meetings, and trainings. The menu included hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, nachos and cheese, and other homemade treats. A huge thanks goes out to all staff who helped make this day successful.

Staff Attend Bridge City's Celebration

Several staff traveled to Bridge City to attend the annual Celebration of Change. Those who attended were **RM Angela Koenig**, **PPSs Robert Duet, Andi Ford, Vicky Marcel** and **Lorraine Thibodaux**, **Social Service Coordinator Reshonn Saul**, **PPOs James Percle, Peter Pobocik** and **Travelle Scott** and **Transport Officer Michael Russell**.



Cheering on your team.



Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC Recipe of the Month



Where does the time go? It seems like I can't turn around twice and the month is gone. The students and I have been very busy with all the festivities going on here at Bridge City. We had the opportunity to take a field trip to the Ritz Carlton Hotel in downtown New Orleans. We also were invited to the *Bell Foods Holiday Food Show*, where the students got to meet, greet and take pictures with **Deuce McAllister**, former running back for the New Orleans Saints. The food and ambiance were really great and everyone had a wonderful time.

We had a big *Fall Fest Day* for the youth. Hamburgers and hot dogs were served for lunch, as well as many other treats, including funnel cakes made by the students. The youth played lots of games to earn tickets they could cash in for prizes. There was a Haunted House and even a Staff vs. Youth basketball game. Special treat bags were given to each youth for good behavior during the event.

In November, the Culinary Arts students were asked to put together a special menu for the **350** youth and guests to enjoy at our annual *Celebration of Change* event. The menu featured Greek salad with our special dressing (included in the recipe of the month), a boneless chicken breast topped with crawfish etouff  , twice baked potatoes, green bean casserole and cheese cake drizzled with fresh strawberries and syrup. I want to say *"thanks"* to everyone on the committee for helping put such a wonderful program together. The comments and e-mails I received were overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

Have a great month and remember, if you have any requests for recipes or questions about food, please let me know at ronald.sonnier@la.gov *C'EST SI BON!* Have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! God bless you all for all you do!



Culinary Arts students attended the Bell Foods Holiday Show at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in downtown New Orleans. From left are JJS Keith Joseph, students Joshua D., Kendrick W., Lamont R., Joshua T., former Saint Deuce McAllister, students Rondell S., Christopher T., Title One Director Ed Green, Assistant Principal Gregory Williams, Elijah N., and of course that is me seated in the middle.



Left, the students of Culinary Arts worked very hard to make sure that every part of the Celebration of Change luncheon was perfect. Right, the luncheon plate featuring boneless chicken breast topped with crawfish etouffée, twice baked potatoes, green bean casserole and a roll.



Left, salads for the Celebration of Change dressed with our special Greek Salad Dressing. Right, sweet potato pies prepared by April Polk, a member of the dining hall staff, really topped off the food prepared by the Culinary Arts students.

Sonnier's Greek Salad Dressing

2 cups	virgin olive oil	1 tbsp	Italian seasoning
1 cup	red wine vinegar	1/3 cup	granulated sugar
1 tbsp	Cavender's Greek Seasoning	1 1/3 cup	Parmesan cheese
1 tbsp	Tony Chachere's Seasoning	5	egg yolks (only yolks)
1 tbsp	dried sweet basil	6 oz.	feta cheese
1 tbsp	granulated garlic		

Place all dry ingredients in a bowl, add vinegar and stir together with a wire whip. Add egg yolks and blend well with whip. Continue to whip while dribbling olive oil into mixture to form an emulsion. Add Parmesan cheese and crumbled feta cheese and stir into salad dressing. Toss on salad and enjoy...

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

OJJ Administrative Team

Mary L. Livers, Ph.D, MSW, *Deputy Secretary*
Sean C. Hamilton, *Assistant Secretary*
Connie Percell, *Undersecretary*
Garry Williams, *Deputy Undersecretary*
Ellyn Toney, *Chief of Operations*
Karen Stubbs, JD, *Deputy Asst. Secretary, Intergovernmental Relations, Communications & Training*
Carolyn B. Lewis, *Northern Regional Director*
Susan Miller, *Southeast Regional Director*
Johnny Qualls, *Central/Southwestern Regional Director*
Donna Bowie, *Family Liaison*
Annette Arthur, LCSW, BACS, *Director of Treatment*
Jerel M. Giarrusso, APR, *Director of Communications*
Kim B. Mims, *Director of Education*
Kelly D. Smith, MN, APRN, PHCNS-BS, *Health Services Administrator*
Martha Morgan, JD, *General Counsel*

Contacts

For more information contact Jerel.Giarrusso@la.gov
225.287.7898

Reporters

Alexandria: Cassaundra Coston
Baton Rouge: Keondra Riley
Bridge City: Cassandra Washington & Tanya Ellis
Central Office: Jerel Giarrusso
Hammond: Courtney Pegues
Jetson: Dir. Angela Sutton
Lafayette/Opelousas: Kevin Broussard
Lake Charles: Melissa Cross
Monroe: Gail Wilson
Natchitoches: Wendy Crow
New Orleans: Roxann Tuircuit
Shreveport: Brandy Stratton/Graham
Swanson: Kristi Walker
Tallulah: Martha Hattaway
Thibodaux: Allison Lirette

Intergovernmental Relations, Communications & Training

Karen Stubbs, *Deputy Assistant Secretary*
Donna Bowie, *Family Services*
Jerel Giarrusso, *Director of Communications*
Fran Martin, *Director of Staff Development*